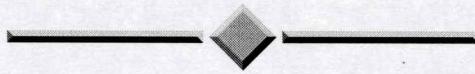




CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 1998-99



CAMPUS MINISTRY IS A UNIT OF *Advocacy & Support Services* STUDENT SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT 1998-99

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ANNUAL REPORT 1998-99

INTRODUCTION

This past year Campus Ministry has had a senior member retire, as have many areas in Concordia University, and we have had to respond to that reality. The need to replace Rev. Matti Terho has led us to develop joint funding of a new Ecumenical Chaplain's position, and hence to new relationships with several Christian churches on the national and local level. The fundraising and search has resulted in the hiring of a United Church minister. Although saying good-bye to a longtime colleague was a sad event, we are quite excited about our new links with these churches and enthusiastically welcome our new Chaplain, Rev. Ellie Hummel.

Another area of ongoing and significant focus for us in Campus Ministry has been the concern of student poverty. Requests by students for assistance from our Student Emergency Food Fund continues to be high, and the need for replenishment of the fund is ongoing.

We continued to develop the Multi-faith network, both in its vision and in the contacts we have with external religious leaders.

On the whole, this was a year of continued development, responding to change, building on existing programs and developing some new ones.

GOALS

Our goals for the 1998-99 year were:

- a) To re-establish the position which had been closed with Matti Terho's retirement, with a new funding base.
- b) To build on past work in the area of multi-faith ministry, and develop our network of religious leaders and teachers from a variety of traditions;
- c) To continue and further develop work we are doing to alleviate the problem of student poverty;
- d) To increase the name recognition, visibility and outreach of Campus Ministry;
- e) To continue making our office environments more welcoming, especially at SGW, Annex Z, and to continue maximizing the use of both campuses,
- f) To increase student involvement in all aspects of Campus Ministry, including revitalizing the Chapel Community.

RESOURCES

Staff

As was mentioned, one of our senior Chaplains retired at the end of March. Until that time, Campus Ministry had three full-time Chaplains staffing offices on the Loyola and Sir George Williams campuses. In addition, we have two part-time Chaplains, one who is hired on a shared funding arrangement between Concordia University and the Montreal Catholic Archdiocese, and another whose salary is paid by the Pillars Trust Fund of the Montreal Catholic Archdiocese. We are a team of women and men, lay and ordained, Catholic and Protestant, working in a multi-faith manner. All Chaplains take appointments at both campuses.

Full-time Chaplains

Rev. Matti Terho (now retired)

Mr. Peter Côté

Ms. Daryl Lynn Ross (Coordinator)

Rev. Ellie Hummel (will begin October 1, 1999).

Part-time Chaplains

David Eley, S.J. (Loyola)

Michelina Bertone, S.S.A. (SGW)

Support staff are essential for maintaining student-friendly spaces as well as for publicizing and carrying out programs and services. Bernard Glover, as full-time secretary, has responsibilities including document production and processing, communications, desktop publishing, media interface and computer maintenance and repair. Magda Jass, the Chapel Supervisor is involved in overseeing the use of the Loyola Chapel for regular Campus Ministry services as well as for use by other persons and groups.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

Annex Z - Sir George Williams Campus: This is a heavily used office space, for appointments, drop-ins, programs and special events. As we have no support staff downtown, if a Chaplain is involved in work out of the office, or in speaking with a student in an office, it has been sometimes difficult to deal with unscheduled visits from students. There are a considerable number of drop-ins, and therefore we have made efforts to solve this problem. A student has been hired to do reception and light office work on a part-time basis. This has been a great help, and will be tremendously helpful next year as well, with a new professional staff member beginning work. In addition, careful coordination of schedules, the scheduling of all full-time Chaplains for office hours at Annex Z, the prioritizing of providing drop-in service, and the presence of Peer Helpers in the lower level office have all helped to address this concern.

There is an office between the front office and lounge (Z-103), which is used by Daryl Ross along with other Chaplains when they are working at SGW. The air quality in that room has been a problem during use for private and group meetings, because when the door is closed the air becomes very warm and stale. We have been in touch with Environmental Health and Safety, and await further action.

The gathering space in the lounge at Annex Z, although not very large, can comfortably seat about twenty people. Behind this lounge is another room, with a sink, refrigerator, cabinets and a large round table and chairs. Having this space available, which many students have said is one of the few "homey" feeling places on campus, has enabled Campus Ministry to offer a wide variety of programs. It is an excellent space to offer meditation, small group discussions and workshops.

Small groups are optimum learning environments, especially for human development learning, as they provide close contact with the leader as well as exchange with peers. Annex Z is one of a small number of places on the downtown campus which has space amenable to such groups. We have quite a few requests from other services and from student associations to make use of this space, and we try to accommodate these requests as much as we can. The lounges were the venue for our very popular Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, which offered weekly dinners for a small donation. The tables, sink, cupboards and kitchen-type set-up made this program possible.

The lounges are showing the wear of considerable use for student activities. We have requested new rugs and furniture, as well as other renovations. Approval has been given, and we hope that the work will commence soon.

We continue to provide space at Annex Z for the Muslim Students' Association to have a prayer room.

Belmore House (Annex WF) - Loyola Campus: This Annex is the primary work centre for Campus Ministry, because the secretary's office is located here, as well as offices for three of the four Concordia Chaplains. The Annex has office spaces and a small meeting room on the first floor, and a large lounge including a complete kitchen in the basement.

The Loyola Campus Ministry office has provided an excellent venue for training and ongoing general meetings of the Peer Helper Program. This group of twenty to twenty-five students who provide volunteer service at Concordia meets for over forty-five hours of initial training at the end of the summer and the beginning of the fall semester, and continues with bi-weekly meetings throughout the regular academic year. The Peer Helpers also use the space for meal preparations for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard dinners, to help enforce strict sanitation standards during food preparation.

The Loyola Campus Ministry office provides an excellent venue for the regular gatherings of the Loyola Chapel community, meetings of the Theological Studies Students' Association and other student groups, pot-luck suppers, regular meditation, weekly and occasional small group

meetings and other events. The Loyola office also provides supervision and coordination of the use of the Loyola Chapel. Concordia community members who are arranging for an event at the Chapel, such as a wedding, have meetings and bring their paperwork to this office.

We have a considerable number of drop-ins on this campus as well, and when the lounge is not being used for a program, there are students who like to use it as a quiet and comfortable place to study. We have been told by students that the Campus Ministry office on Loyola, as well, is one of the few "homey" feeling spaces on that campus.

Over the past number of years the concentration of students has moved increasingly to the Sir George Williams campus. This has made organizing group programs very difficult at the Loyola Campus, a problem which we have mentioned repeatedly in these reports. We hope that plans for Loyola, including a new college based there, will revitalize that campus.

Library: A number of books have been acquired by Campus Ministry over the years. These were added to by a considerable collection from the late Florence Pirella and Mr. Brendan Griffin. Some work has gone into organizing this collection and cataloguing it in a usable way so that the resource will be more available to students and other users. We plan to have a little celebration to inaugurate the library in the fall term.

The Loyola Chapel: The Chapel is the gathering place for an active Chapel Community and is a place of many celebrations and ceremonies which mark significant passages in the lives of members of Concordia and of the community as a whole. It is a focal point for alumni, who frequently return to the Loyola Chapel for Sunday masses; some are even part of the regular Chapel community, and many return to the Chapel for weddings, anniversaries, funerals and baptisms. Also, over the past two years the Department of Music has returned to the Chapel. We have been happy to provide the Concordia Chamber Choir and other groups with a place to practice during those times when the concert hall has been unavailable to them.

The Loyola Chapel is a significant place for Concordia University as an entire community; at a time when so many of our long-term faculty and staff are taking retirement or early retirement packages and are leaving active involvement in university life, and it feels as if we are losing the holders of our "institutional memory" it is important to safeguard the meaningful traditions and places which remain.

In addition to being a place which holds many memories for university members, the Chapel is an oasis on campus for quiet, contemplation and stillness. Very frequently, when one of the Chaplains or the Sacristan goes into the Chapel, there are one or more people just sitting quietly in this peaceful, sacred space. The Chapel is accessible through the administration building at all times. It is locked after 11:00 p.m., but will be opened by a security guard upon request.

As the population of Concordia has gradually become more diverse, Campus Ministry has welcomed the challenge and opportunity to serve the variety of religious and spiritual needs of our university community, while also providing opportunities for people to come together to affirm the many common values and interests which we share as people of faith. In February, 1998 we held a meeting which included twenty-two people from the following faith traditions: Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish, Moslem, Bahà'i, Native Spirituality, Christian and Unitarian. This past year we have held two more such meetings. At the last meeting it was agreed to invite students from various religious groups at Concordia to an informal gathering, so the resource people could meet with them and learn more about their needs.

We have set up a **multi-faith internet news group** so that we can post a variety of events and activities which might interest students of different religions. We have also produced several updated versions of a **Multi-faith brochure** naming the colleagues in our Multi-faith Network, so that we can effectively refer students who have a particular spiritual or religious need.

We offered our second **Multi-faith Convocation Service**, with the assistance of a number of gracious participants from several traditions. Once again we had readings and meditations from many traditions. The attendance was lower than the first year, and we feel that this might be the result of a different way of inviting graduating students which was arranged by the Registrar's office. It is something to try to improve next year.

Our second **Multi-faith Festival** took place in October of 1998. Included were a panel discussion on sexuality by students from different traditions, expositions, workshops and an "Express your Spirituality" art corner. We made a mistake in timing; the coinciding of the festival with midterms made it difficult to get student participation. This year's event was not as well-attended as the festival in January 1997; however there was a steady stream of participation throughout the day, with very positive feedback.

In the coming year we intend to focus more energies on fostering multi-faith dialogue and collaboration among students from diverse faith traditions, especially working through the channels of the student associations.

We feel that multi-faith work is very significant, and can be an effective approach to promoting tolerance and a uniting, as opposed to a fragmenting vision of humanity. We believe we are accomplishing important and pioneering work in the area of Multi-faith Ministry.

PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND EVENTS

It is largely through the variety of offerings outlined below that we reach out to the members of the Concordia University Community to educate, foster personal and spiritual growth, create community, offer support and guidance through life's transitions and provide opportunities to lend a compassionate hand to the needy.

Workshops and Small Groups

Prison Visit Program

This long-standing outreach program continues to be very popular and beneficial to the student participants. It is one which we consciously maintain at a maximum attendance of 10 to 12 student volunteers each semester. For the 98-99 school year Peter Côté and Matti Terho continued at the Federal Training Centre in cooperation with the Prison Chaplain, David Schantz. Each year this program has a powerful, indeed life-changing impact on some of the students. Students come from all four of the faculties, but representation from within the so-called "helping profession" departments is the strongest, i.e. Sociology, Psychology, and Applied Human Sciences. For these students in particular it becomes an important part of their educational experience, as they make choices about their direction in life.

The past school year was a very successful one for the Prison Visit Program. The group was more or less optimum size and the visitors were conscientious and positive in their approach. The group of inmates attended regularly, and all seemed to enjoy the meetings throughout the program.

With Matti Terho's retirement some changes may be made to the program. A stronger focus on the themes of Restorative Justice and Victim Mediation is being explored, especially in terms of how the student group can apply these principles in the community. For those students who are considering a career in Correctional Services and the helping professions generally, this will be particularly useful. To this end Peter Côté attended workshops during the summer of 1999 in Victim Mediation, Restorative Justice and Alternatives to Violence.

Mindfulness Meditation

Two groups were held regularly by Daryl Ross, the group at Annex Z continuing for its sixth year, the group at Annex WF for a fourth. Both were held during the week, in the daytime. The SGW group fluctuated from about eight to eighteen participants, the group at Loyola was consistently about four or five. A number of participants gave feedback that learning meditation has been very helpful in many aspects of their academic and personal lives. During the winter semester Daryl held a third session, in the VA building, aimed at Fine Arts students. This did not attract enough students to repeat this experimental offering. The idea of bringing meditation into the midst of the community remains an interesting idea, and Daryl may try offering a session once a week in Residence in the coming semester. Also, an evening session will be offered on the Loyola Campus.

Outreach Experience (Volunteer/Discernment Program)

This program, now in its fifth year, is coordinated by Michelina Bertone, SSA. Students seeking to do volunteer work in the community are matched with organizations needing the skills and

energies these students bring. Students offer volunteer service to youth, the poor, the homeless, elderly and sick. Follow-up meetings are scheduled between the coordinator and the student following a set number of weeks of volunteer work. Links are made during these meetings with the student's career goals, and also with his/her ethical and spiritual life. The students meet as a group twice a year to share their experiences with one another and engage in shared ritual (prayer). About twenty students took part this year. next year there will be an attempt to place students in primarily two centres: Chez Doris and Benedict Labre House.

Book Discussion Group - "Christ Before Christianity"

A group of ten members of the university community, students, staff, administrators and professors met for eleven weeks in the September semester to read and discuss Albert Nolan's Christ before Christianity. The programme was led by David Eley, S.J..

Book Discussion Group – "Living Buddha, Living Christ;" "The Dhammapada;" "Awakening the Buddha Within;" as well as some short Buddhist sutras

A group of faculty, staff and students, some continuing from the reading group last year, met all year to read and discuss these texts. Discussion included the Buddhist, Christian and Hindu traditions, and personal experiences. A very high level of exchange provided much food for thought as well as spiritual nourishment, and marked this as a program worthy of repetition.

The New Millennium: Holistic Spirituality and Living in Hope"

Animated by Michelina Bertone, S.S.A., this group of 5 to 12 participants focused on readings, reflection as well as creative expression through a variety of media.

Bible Study - Scripture Meditation

Also by Michelina Bertone, S.S.A., about six students participated in this workshop. The participants in this and the previous program have expressed much appreciation for all they have learned and experienced.

Events

Eric O'Connor Event - Jazz Vespers: Towards a New Millennium

The Jazz Vespers was an evening event provided under the title of the Eric O'Connor Event, an annual event for Campus Ministry. This event combined three elements: a short form of evening prayer; Sacred Jazz, written by Duke Ellington, and performed by Prof.'s Charles Elison and Andrew Homzy and the Concordia Jazz Chamber Players; a slide presentation on Third World debt, focussing on the Philippines, presented by a graduate student, Mario Degilio-Bellemare.

The event concluded with two talks given by the professors about the sacred aspects of music and jazz in particular.

Retreat at Oka Monastery

A group of twenty-four, mostly students with a few faculty and external participants, attended a retreat at Oka Monastery on October 30 to November 1, 1998. This annual event brings a diverse group, spanning the spectrum of the deeply religious to the respectfully curious, to live in close proximity to a cloistered community of contemplative monks. It was an excellent retreat weekend. Chaplains offer instruction in meditation, guided prayer and spiritual counselling to those who are interested.

This event is at its maximum capacity at this level given the facility used and the nature of the event. The retreat was supervised by Peter Côté and Daryl Ross.

G.I.F.T. Project, 1999

This inter-university project run by Sr. Michelina attracted ten students from universities in Montreal and several from Massachusetts. G.I.F.T. stands for God, Inter-dependence, Friendly outreach, Transformation. This was an intensive residential program, including: outreach in service to the poor, the homeless, the elderly and sick; community building; theological reflection.

Twilight Retreats

Sr. Michelina held four evening retreats on the theme "The Cup of My Life." Between ten and eighteen students participated in these gatherings.

Services

The Student Emergency Food Fund

The Student Emergency Food Fund supports the emergency assistance Campus Ministry gives to students in the form of food vouchers. Vouchers (gift certificates) are purchased from Provigo and IGA and given to students in need to buy groceries. It is an extremely elemental form of assistance!

The Fund is supported through annual and periodic fund raising activities amongst Concordia students, staff, faculty and alumni.

As can be seen from the statistics presented below (see appendix) the demand for food vouchers has remained very strong during the 1998-99 year. Although the total number of visits has decreased somewhat as compared to the previous year the total dollar value of vouchers distributed has increased. This is due to the larger amounts given to many students. All the

chaplains have felt it increasingly difficult to give a student in need \$25. or \$30. when they clearly require more simply to survive. As a result the team decided during the year to try to decrease the total number of student visits, yet help those we feel warrant it most with larger amounts which reflect more realistically their need.

We continue to see students who are returning to school with no viable means of support, no plan in place, no guaranteed source of funding, and no expectation that one can be found. In some cases students in mid-program find themselves in this situation after having lost their means of support. These students are struggling to fulfill a dream under the most stressful of circumstances. In many cases they are single parents eager to find a way out of dependency and poverty; or international students with none of the traditional supports or avenues open to them.

As stated last year our normal fund raising activity cannot meet the demand we have experienced these last two years. We are exploring and establishing new sources of fund raising; chief among these is an enhanced effort directed toward alumni and retired staff and faculty, as well as the possibility of including the Student Emergency Food Fund in the Annual Giving Campaign. We will, of course, continue with our Christmas Season Campaign and the various events included in that.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

This program, coordinated by Daryl Ross, implemented through the efforts of Peer Helpers and other student volunteers, serves weekly meals to students at Annex Z for a donation of \$1.00. Costs were subsidized by the Student Emergency Food Fund. The meals were prepared at the Loyola Campus Ministry office by student volunteers, the preparation was supervised and meals were transported by Daryl Ross. About sixty to eighty students were served each week, from mid-September to late April, with the attendance peaking for a few weeks at ninety to one hundred. The meals were vegetarian, and inexpensive to prepare. Students were often given copies of the recipes, so they could learn new skills in preparing nutritious meals on a small budget. The atmosphere at "Mother Hubbard's" is warm and friendly; many of the students who came were from out of province or from other countries, and came to meet people as well as enjoy a meal. The feedback from students who participated continues to be extremely positive; many came because of word-of-mouth publicity which is a sure sign that a program is responding to the real needs of students.

Pastoral Counselling and Spiritual Direction

Concordia provides an excellent network of services, and therefore students have choices about the means to find guidance and support when they feel a need to seek it. Short-term pastoral counselling and spiritual direction offered by chaplains have helped many students to respond to life choices and emotional issues constructively and with integrity. The chaplains provide spiritual guidance and development to other members of the University community as well. Chaplains also provide many referrals to other university services. The flow of these sessions is

irregular, but generally about four to twelve students are seen by each Chaplain within an average week.

Gatherings for celebration, commemoration and worship

Chaplains were involved in preparing for and presiding at ceremonies such as convocations, weddings, anniversaries, funeral/memorial services. Many people turn to religious leaders when they are looking for meaningful ways to mark significant passages in life. Sacramental celebrations such as weddings and baptisms necessarily involve one of the ordained chaplains. Fifteen Roman Catholic baptisms were celebrated in the Loyola Chapel in 1998-99 and another five of other Christian faiths. Chapel this year. Other gatherings such as memorial services are also led by the lay chaplains.

Marriage preparation

As usual, there have been requests from members of the Concordia community, students and former students, to have their weddings in the Chapel. Many were Catholic, but also many were from other Christian denominations, exercising the ecumenical character of the Chapel. David Eley was the Chaplain most principally occupied with this important event in the lives of the students. There are usually seven to ten meetings to prepare for these occasions. One can observe that the attachment created to the University through this activity is significant and probably life long. Twenty-eight weddings were celebrated in the Loyola Chapel this year and several more were held at various locations off campus. With few exceptions, all marriages witnessed by Concordia Chaplains involve members of the Concordia University Community.

Loyola Chapel

The Loyola Chapel continues to be used for a variety of religious ceremonies and prayers. This has been another full and busy year. There are regular Sunday Catholic services, known throughout the diocese for creativity and openness, and also weekday masses. Occasional services from diverse denominations take place on an ad-hoc basis. Many weddings of members of the Concordia community, and alumni are celebrated there as well as a number of memorial services for the dead. It is also the venue for group meditation, and for a number of prayer gatherings, meetings, public lectures, recitals and concerts. Importantly as well, the Chapel is used by some students as a drop-in for quiet prayer. The Chapel is used principally for events of religious significance for the Concordia community but is also used from time to time for other University occasions.

Services are attended 52 Sundays of the year by 80 to 150 people. The special feasts of Christmas and Holy Week draw considerably larger attendance. Throughout the regular academic year mass is celebrated in the Chapel five days a week, and is attended by from 5 to thirty people. There is variation according to seasonal and liturgical cycles. Throughout the year the

number of people at the occasional activities would be 150 - 300 at a wedding or a memorial service and diverse numbers for other gatherings.

Some important University events are commemorated during the Sunday service such as the Opening Eucharist of the Holy Spirit held on Homecoming weekend in October and the Multi-Faith Convocation Service held in June at the time of the University Convocation. The Homecoming service functions as a welcome to the new students and a welcome back to the classes of alumni who are gathering for their reunions. Last year the class of 1948 gathered in significant number for this event to celebrate the 50 years since their graduation.

Although Campus Ministry stresses the importance of maintaining the Chapel as sacred space, throughout the year it is used by individual students and student groups in response to special needs. Outside groups have also used the Chapel on occasion for musical recording or filming sessions. With rare exceptions the requesting person is usually an alum. Particularly, this year the Chapel had the distinct pleasure of welcoming the choir of the Shaare Zion Congregation who recorded a CD of traditional Jewish sacred music. Their Choir Master and Cantor were most impressed with the acoustics of the Chapel.

All activities in the Chapel are prepared through the services of the Chapel Supervisor, Magda Jass. She sets up, orchestrates during, and rearranges afterwards for all events.

During the year a number of significant repairs and clean ups have been made to the Chapel and the surrounding areas, both externally and internally. Repairs of ice-storm water damages and other problems with dampness in the plaster have been made. Many adjacent rooms and halls have been painted. A new carpet in the Chapel and in one of the side rooms has been installed. Lamps have been cleaned and in some cases changed. All these improvements are very welcome and were needed. Other tasks remain to be done, some major and others minor. The major tasks would involve installing new electrical wiring, painting the plaster walls in the Chapel itself and treatment of the panelling and woodwork. It has been a year of significant improvements.

This year we finalized a project that has been in progress for about eight years,: the building and dedication of a new altar for the Chapel. A fine altar was designed and carved from excellent walnut by Robert Nagy, formerly Chaplain at Concordia for more than twenty-five years. It will be a permanent presence in the Chapel. An extensive and festive ceremony was celebrated for the dedication.

Chapel Council

There is an elected council of about twelve members which takes responsibility for the activities of the Loyola Chapel Community. Three of the Chaplains, Daryl, David and Peter and the Chapel Supervisor are ex officio members. The council organizes a number of community-building activities for the Chapel. The finances of the Chapel and special projects are also the

concern of this body, and they exercise a responsive leadership for the Chapel operations. A series of regular monthly meetings is held for these purposes.

Involvement in Orientation and Convocation

Orientation: Chaplains presided at the beginning of each Orientation main session with greetings and a ritual opening. This served to give us a certain amount of exposure to every student attending Orientation, not just a small group in a workshop. It is somewhat similar in nature to our role at Convocation and so highlights that important ceremonial aspect of our work. Over the four days of Orientation we would have had contact with approximately 2000 students.

Convocation: The Convocation ceremonies are the central ritual event of the University. The role of the Chaplains in these ceremonies dates back to the beginnings of each of the founding institutions of Concordia. We bless each event at the beginning with an Invocation, and at the end with a Benediction. Our prayers are inclusive and respectful of the variety of religious beliefs present at Concordia. We believe in the importance and value of the spiritual dimension being included at this very significant point in the life of the University. We know that many students appreciate the opening invocation and the blessings given as the ceremony concludes. Each year several students request copies of the prayers which were said at their Convocation because they found it particularly moving and meaningful. In terms of our visibility and stature as a department which is integral to the University, the role we play in the Convocation ceremonies cannot be underestimated. It is one we cherish and want to affirm.

PUBLICATIONS

We published two volumes of a newsletter which we called "First Word." Distribution was by including them in issues of The Link, through Student Services and other means. We feel the effort and expense of producing a newsletter is time and money well-spent. Many students and staff and faculty were reached, and we received considerable positive feedback, as well as inquiries on topics and programs which we had discussed in the newsletters.

Other publications were: a brochure on the Student Emergency Food Fund, the Multi-faith Network resource list, program flyers and weekly mass sheets.

A survival guide for students living on low incomes is being worked on in collaboration with Health Services, and will be published in the fall.

THE PEER HELPER PROGRAM

Overview

This past year was an excellent one for Peer Helpers, in terms of the functioning of the organization, however use of the service declined marginally for a second year. In response to this

we have decided to expand the peer mentoring aspect of the program and offer more practical services such as help in filling out complex application and loan forms. The name has also been changed to The Peer Support Programme.

Every student who entered the training completed the entire year's commitment. This was the Peer Helper Program's ninth year of operation.

Training

A Faculty member provided the majority of the training in helping skills, and various professional staff members animated workshops on topics such as time management, dealing with a crisis, poverty, sexuality and addiction as well as providing information on the resources available to students at Concordia and in the larger community. The initial training at the beginning of the fall semester is over forty-five hours, with ongoing meetings every second Friday for discussion, feedback and additional training sessions.

Each Peer Helper has a mid-year evaluation meeting with the coordinator and one supervisor. This provides a structured opportunity for mutual exchange on the performance of the Peer Helper as well as his/her perceptions of the program. Peer Helpers give anonymous feedback on the performance of the coordinator and supervisors.

Coordinating Team

The Coordinating Team consists of the coordinator and four second-year Peer Helpers, or supervisors. This supervisors this year were very competent and responsible, with one of them returning for a second year in a supervisory role. This was the student who was hired by Campus Ministry to work on the SGW campus, and her knowledge and skills acquired through Peer Helping have been tremendous assets.

The Director of Advocacy and Support Services continues to be a resource, support, and a creative guide in the development of the program. Scheduled meetings, as well as unscheduled conversations serve to provide the Coordinator with very helpful feedback and perspective. Other professional staff from Counselling and Development, Health Services the Centre for Native Education and the International Student Advisors' Office, as well as others, have been consulted during the year to help understand and meet the needs of particular students.

Operations

The Peer Helper Centre is located at 2090 Mackay (Annex Z) room 02. The front window looks almost directly across at the Mackay Street entrance to the Hall Building. We feel this is an ideal location, because of its proximity to the most heavily utilized building, while being very slightly

more private than if it were right on the beaten path. The accessibility of the Campus Ministry professional staff to Peer Helpers, as well as the reception Peer Helpers provide in the building if a Chaplain is not available have been very positive aspects of situating these services together.

The Centre was open on Monday to Thursday, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. During the exam period the Centre is open once or twice a week, depending upon the availability of the Peer Helpers. A campus outreach table to provide information and referrals is booked through the Dean of Students Office, and is situated in the lobby of the Hall Building. These were scheduled once a week, for four or five hours, depending on the availability of the tables and of Peer Helpers to staff them on those days.

Outreach Programs

Peer Connections: In cooperation with The Coordinator for New Student Programs, an effort was made to contact every new student by phone.*****

Outreach in the Women's Centre: One Peer Helper performed some of her weekly hours in the Women's Centre this year.

Peer Mentoring for Learning Disabled Students: Four Peer Helpers worked with Services for Disabled Students to provide mentoring to students with learning disabilities.

Ongoing Projects

Gay and Bisexual Men's Discussion Group: This group is in its sixth year,****

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard: Two Peer Helpers were involved in this project, and, as mentioned in the section on Services in Campus Ministry, this was a very successful year.

OTHER CAMPUS MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Professional Development

Campus Ministry works within a professional environment, within standards set by the National Association, which groups Campus Ministers from all Canadian Universities by the National Offices of the Churches and inter-church and inter-faith committees, as well as being in close connection with our counterparts in the United States. Further, there are a series of professional organizations with their conventions and regular publications. Concordia chaplains attend some of these meetings every year and make a regular and on-going part of their study and reflection

the integration of the latest concerns, findings and practices into the work of Campus Ministry at Concordia University. Some of the time of our planning days and regular weekly meetings are dedicated to this learning and professional updating.

Throughout the year on a regular basis the whole Campus Ministry staff gathers for full day or half day team meetings. These times are used for a variety of forms of development. Some of the time is spent on evaluation and subsequent planning of activities. Attention is also given to a number of professional issues including articulating objectives and creating a mechanism for determining priorities. This is a necessary part of our work when we can deal with issues and cases that are brought to our attention through various avenues, including the National Association, some of our Church affiliations, and community organizations.

Search Committee for a new Director of Health Services: David Eley was invited by the Dean of Students, Dr. Donald Boisvert to participate in the process for the selection of a new director of health Services. The process began in November 1998 and came to a end in May 1999.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Michelina Bertone SSA: Diocesan Youth Council, the Montreal Association for Vocation Awareness, pastoral counsellor at the Montreal Pastoral Institute.

Peter Côté: Chair, President's Advisory Board of Catholic Community Services, Inc., President, Concordia University Professional Employees Union, hosted Regional Ecumenical Chaplains Conference, attended Canadian Catholic Chaplains Conference in Ottawa.

David Eley: On the board of the Adult Religious Education Office for the Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal, participates in the monthly directors' meetings and on several sub-committees organizing specific events. Attended national Chaplains' Conference in Halifax, Call to Action Conference

Daryl Ross: CUPEU Council member, attended National Catholic Chaplain's Conference in Ottawa,

Matti Terho: Chair of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue in Montreal, secretary of the Lutheran Council in Montreal, member of the Board of Directors for the Canadian-Scandinavian Foundation, volunteer Christian Chaplain for traditional parade of World War II veterans in Cote St.Luc, temporary chair of the Canadian Sauna Society, co-sponsor for the Institute on Judaism at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, made a formal presentation titled "Jesus & Judaism" at McGill Chaplaincy, participated in a two day project to celebrate the Day to Combat Racism and Prejudice in Washington, DC

CONCLUSION

The goals which we set for ourselves in the beginning of the year were largely adhered to and fulfilled.

We ended the year with a real sense of satisfaction in the work we have accomplished, with a vision to build on these accomplishments. We also have concerns about coping with change, both within Campus Ministry and in the University as a whole. The changes which the entire University Community has been experiencing continues on, without abate. Some new developments, such as the Revitalization of Loyola, give hope that not all change involves loss.

As we affirmed in last year's report, we believe it is essential that we, along with many others, affirm the values and qualities that make Concordia a unique and admirable academic community. The innate worth of each person, learning which is rooted in a sense of wonder and curiosity, openness to the diversity of human experience and expression, support for weaker and more vulnerable members, are all values out of which Concordia University has grown. Campus Ministry will continue to creatively respond to the spiritual and practical needs of community members, and add our vision and voice to those who seek to build Concordia on the best of what it has come from and has become. Within that future, we believe, faith, spirituality and ethical and moral development have an essential role. We look forward to this coming year with hope and enthusiasm.

APPENDIX 1
STUDENT EMERGENCY FOOD FUND
FOOD VOUCHER DISBURSEMENTS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u> <u>1997-98</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u> <u>1998-99</u>	<u>No Visits</u> <u>1997-98</u>	<u>No Visits</u> <u>1998-99</u>
June	885.00	900.00	15	19
July	720.00	765.00	11	17
August	640.00	1,175.00	17	21
September	1,260.00	2,285.00	33	39
October	1,375.00	1,415.00	31	27
November	1,530.00	1,845.00	41	38
December	1,305.00	3,620.00	32	59
January	3,965.00	2,065.00	76	40
February	3,045.00	2,660.00	70	48
March	4,630.00	4,410.00	117	79
April	3,180.00	2,850.00	61	46
May	1,290.00	1,960.00	26	30
TOTAL VOUCHERS	<u>23,825.00</u>	<u>25,950.00</u>		
<i>Total visits</i>			<u>539</u>	<u>463</u>
<i>Average per visit</i>	<u>44.20</u>	<u>56.05</u>		

STUDENT EMERGENCY FOOD FUND
DISBURSEMENTS 1998-99

